

VI. Future Conferences and Events Related to Seabird-Fishery Interactions

Title: Seabird Group Conference 2000
Dates: March 17-19, 2000
Location: Wilhelmshaven, Germany
Language: English
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Summary: The Seabird Group will hold its 7th Conference in Wilhelmshaven, north-west Germany between 17-19 March 2000. This will coincide with the EXPO by the Sea, the maritime section of the EXPO 2000 in Hannover. The conference will be our first outside UK, and will be hosted by Institut für Vogelforschung Vogelwarte Helgoland. We hope that the location will enable more continental seabird biologists to be able to join us, making this a truly international meeting, and a suitable way to welcome the new millennium. The main topic for the meeting will be Seabird Reproduction, but as in previous years, offers of papers on other aspects of the biology of marine birds will be most welcome.

Title: Workshop on Incidental Take of Seabirds in Fishing Gear in Arctic Countries
Dates: April 2000
Location: Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
Language: English
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Summary: The Circumpolar Seabird Working Group of CAFF (The Program for the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna) will hold a workshop on the incidental take or "bycatch" of seabirds in fishing gear in the waters of Arctic countries in April 2000. The workshop, which will be jointly hosted by Canada and USA, is a follow-up to a recent CAFF technical report, which reported that bycatch of seabirds in fixed nets is an important seabird conservation problem in many circumpolar countries. There is currently a high profile, international effort to reduce incidental take of seabirds in Pacific and Southern Ocean longline fisheries. The workshop will complement the global bycatch initiative by focusing on incidental take in gillnets and longlines in waters of Arctic countries, issues which have been neglected to date.

By bringing together fisheries managers and fishers with seabird biologists and experts in fisheries bycatch, the workshop will focus on topics such as current knowledge of seabird bycatch in Arctic countries, information needs, methods to monitor and reduce bycatch, outreach programs, and research needs. Proceedings of the workshop will be published.

Title: Second International Conference on the Biology and Conservation of Albatrosses and other Petrels

Dates: May 8-12, 2000

Location: Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

Language: English

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Summary: The Second International Conference on the Biology and Conservation of Albatrosses which will be expanded to include discussion of all members of the Order Procellariiformes. This conference follows the First International Albatross Conference held in Hobart Tasmania in 1995 and will provide an opportunity to present scientific papers on all aspects of the biology or conservation of Procellariiform birds.

We are soliciting papers for 4 symposia including:

1. Fishery interactions with albatrosses and other petrels with particular emphasis on measuring efficacy of current bird catch reduction measures and compliance with regulatory requirements
2. Effects of human disturbance and habitat alterations on albatrosses and other petrels
3. Alien predators in petrel colonies: effects and solutions to the problem
4. Contaminants in the marine environment and their ramifications for albatrosses and other petrels

Immediately after the general conference there will be a Second International Workshop on Albatross-Fisheries Interactions at which biologists, fisheries experts, wildlife managers, and fishing industry representatives will present and discuss developments in the ongoing efforts to resolve conflicts between seabirds and fishing activities worldwide. There will also be a workshop on Predator removal and Island Restoration that will serve as a forum for discussing international conservation strategies for the world's remaining petrel colonies.

Meeting in Honolulu will encourage interchange between petrel biologists of the northern and southern hemispheres. It will also allow focus on seabird-longline interaction in the fisheries of the north Pacific. The organizers will arrange field trips which will provide opportunities to view a variety of central Pacific seabirds including the world's largest Laysan Albatross and second largest Black-footed Albatross breeding colonies at Midway Atoll.